

RAILS Report – Resource Sharing Committee

January 27, 2025

[RAILS Premieres Find More Illinois Promo Video](#)

Find More Illinois is an interlibrary loan platform with over 80 participating libraries. The platform currently provides participating libraries with access to over seven million items in one seamless interface. Libraries of all types and sizes are able to join the platform at any time during the year.

To better understand how Find More Illinois impacts libraries and their communities, we visited seven participating libraries and asked them to reflect on their experiences with the interlibrary loan platform. We compiled these stories to create a [two-minute promotional video](#) that explores why they decided to join, what the setup process was like, and why other libraries in Illinois should consider joining.

[AISLE Annual Conference and AISLE Crystal Award](#)

The AISLE Annual Conference was held on November 7-9 in Tinley Park. This year's theme is AISLE L.E.A.D.: Librarians – Educating, Advocating, Making a Difference. RAILS staff presented at a variety of sessions throughout the conference. Monica Harris was named the recipient of the Crystal Honor Award at this year's AISLE awards. This award is given for distinguished support of/or contributions to the school library profession, school libraries in Illinois, or contributions to the Association.

[ILDS Contract Discussion](#)

Joe Filapek and Monica Harris met with colleagues from CARLI and IHLS to continue to discuss the ILDS contract on October 11. The next steps involve a draft of shared talking points explaining the increased costs of doing business with delivery as well as the rationale for a more 24 to 48-hour turnaround in support of greater efficiency and standardization.

[RAILS Now Offering PDH Credit to School Library Staff as an ISBE-Approved Provider](#)

The CE webinar held on October 22, "Collection Management for Today's School Library," marks the beginning of RAILS offering state-approved professional development credits for school library staff. We're excited about the positive impact this initiative will have on the professional growth of library staff in our service area and our ongoing commitment to supporting school libraries.

[Now Available: Can't Shelve This Episode 3](#)

In "The Library's Got Rizz," Janette and Leah chat with district librarian Nichole Folkman (Hartsburg-Emden CUSD #21) about the best ways to get your tots, tweens, and teens excited about visiting the school library. Plus, we read and discuss your submitted programming stories!



[2025 My Library Is... Grants Now Open for Application](#)

RAILS is excited to announce the opening of applications for the [2025 My Library Is... Grants](#). These grants are designed to help libraries tell their story and are open to ALL types of RAILS member libraries

(academic, public, school, and specialized). Applications are due Monday, February 3, 2025, at 5:00 pm Central.

[RAILS Opens Online Store](#)

We are excited to announce that RAILS has officially opened an online store!

Book-themed merch is having a moment in pop culture, and we're seizing the [Threadless website](#). All prices in the RAILS Threadless store are set on a cost-recovery basis. RAILS does not receive any profit from the opportunity to include libraries in those conversations. Anyone can now purchase a RAILS-designed t-shirt, mug, tote, and more on our or financial gain from the sales made through this online store.



[RAILS Deals & Discounts Announces Fiero Code for Public Libraries](#)

Advantageous pricing is available for Fiero Code for public libraries. Fiero Code helps patrons ages 8 to 108 build valuable coding skills in a fun and motivating platform. Fiero Code can be utilized for in-person, virtual coding clubs or bootcamps, and no coding expertise is required by library staff.

[RAILS Hosts Udemy Webinar](#)

In October, 30 registrants attended the Gale: Learn Something New with Udemy webinar. This online learning platform provides instruction for adults who want to upskill for a new job, advance in their current profession, or deepen their interests.

[Find More Illinois Update](#)

During the weeks of October 21 and October 28, RAILS Consortial Services Supervisor Barb Miller met with the top users of the Enhanced Borrowing Pilot to discuss the sunset of the pilot and the option of taking part in the Inter-System Sharing Initiative (ISSI). This program is sponsored and supported by Auto-Graphics and would enable interested libraries to share materials with participating libraries in Wisconsin.



[November Partnership Meeting](#)

RAILS has monthly meetings with representatives from the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE), Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS), Illinois Library Association (ILA), and the Illinois State Library (ISL) to discuss ways we can work collaboratively to support school libraries. November meeting topics included:

- Updates on AISLE's task force on getting a certified school librarian in every school
- An AISLE Advocacy Committee effort to communicate with public libraries about job openings in local school districts
- The upcoming Illinois Association of School Boards conference